

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



DATE: March 2, 2022

TO: Members, Environment and Transportation

FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
Maryland Association of County Health Officers

RE: HB 1068 – Local Health Departments, Environmental Health Specialists, and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Systems Standards, Regulations, Applications, and Funding

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **Support HB 1068 with Amendments.**

Through a collaboration with MACo and Senator Hester’s Office, the Conference has provided input on behalf of all local health departments, and our suggested amendments have been accepted by the sponsor. While we wait to see a revised version of the bill with the agreed upon amendments, the Conference and MACHO provide this letter of support for an amended bill that includes the following:

- Amend the requirement of standardized permit forms for the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems to developing minimum requirements for the permit forms;
- Remove from the Health Occupation Article and move under the Environment Article the requirement for the department to promote consistent standards and regulations, develop and make available statewide standards, and host monthly informational meetings, as these responsibilities are not the role of the Board of the Environmental Health Specialists and should be mandated to the department; and
- Remove from the Health Occupation Article and move under the State Budget subtitle in Health-General, for the governor to include in the annual budget the appropriation of \$5,000,000 to address pay disparities and staffing shortages for Environmental Health Specialist employees within the Maryland Department of Health to assist with recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

Accordingly, we request the Committee **SUPPORT SB 1068 WITH above AMENDMENTS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Welch".

Kenneth Welch, President
Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Maiorana".

Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director
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